MANITOBA CALLING 1942

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1942

MANITOBA TELEPHONE SYSTEM

CKY-CKX

Manitoba Calling

VOL. VI. — NO. 1
JANUARY — 1942

RADIO BRANCH
CKY - CKX
MANITOBA
TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Bringing You Season's Greetings

Vol. VI. No. 1.
Single Copy
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Address all communications to Public Relations Department,
Radio Branch,
Manitoba Telephone System,
Winnipeg.

January, 1942.
12 Issues, 60c.
Post Free.

BE SO PROUD OF THE RACE TO WHICH YOU BELONG that you will be as jealous of its honour as you are of its safety, and that you will fight for both with equal determination.

The struggle will be arduous, it may be long, and it will certainly demand of our nation that it should withhold nothing that may contribute to our strength.

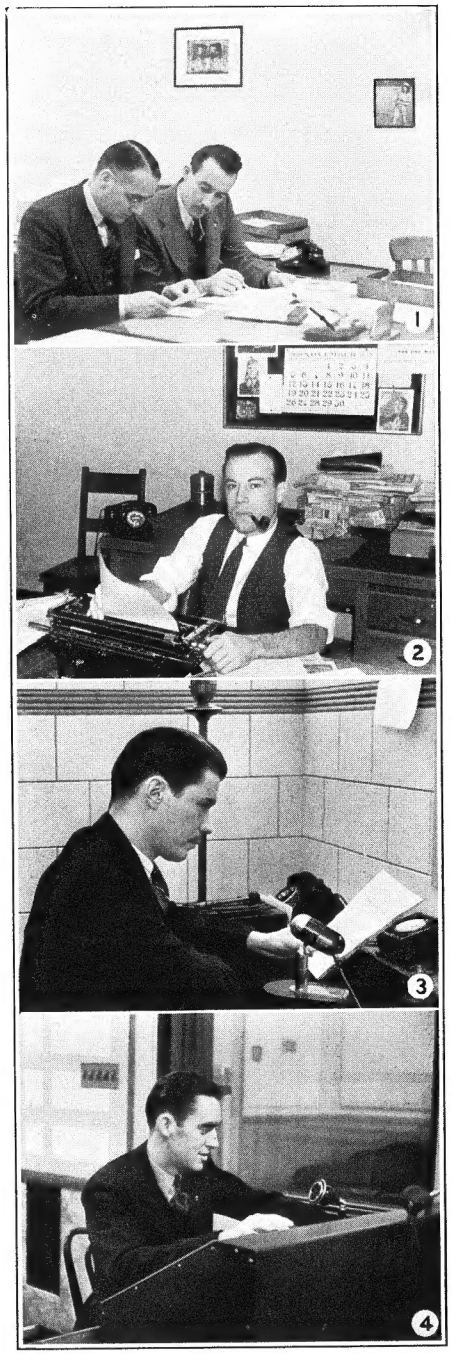
In front of the Viceroy's House in New Delhi stands a column on which are inscribed the words

In Thought Faith
In Word Wisdom
In Deed Courage
In Life Service

No one of us could offer for our country and our Commonwealth any better prayer today.

Lord Halifax at Oxford, 29th February, 1940.

Studio Personalities



1—Programme Director R. H. Roberts and Chief Announcer Wilf Davidson check-over the list of questions for Tuesday's "Treasure Trail". The picture was taken just prior to the Treasure Trail meeting—a regular Tuesday "date" in Herb. Robert's office.

★

2—Behind a door marked "Continuity" we snapped this picture of Harry Randall, CKY continuity writer. It is Harry's job to supply the "scripts" for the daily programmes—one of the important "behind-the-scenes" departments of broadcasting.

★

3—Here is Announcer Tom Benson in Studio 5, looking over a script before programme time. Best known for his work on the early-morning programmes, Tom has won a great following with his quick wit and friendly chatter.

★

4—Into Studio 4 for this picture of CKY Operator Gordon Thompson, at the studio control. Beyond the window at Gordon's left is Studio 3, where "talks" and dramatic presentations originate.

Meet . . .

The Aldrich Family

As a general thing, a character created for a stage play dies a quiet death when the show is taken from the boards. Not so Henry Aldrich! Even before Goldsmith's comedy "What a Life" was through on Broadway, Henry and his lovable family were firmly implanted in the affections of radio listeners.

"The Aldrich Family" made its radio debut on the Rudy Vallee Variety Show, and later on "The Kate Smith Hour"—that was 'way back in 1938. The following year they took-over the Jack Benny half-hour when the Waukegan comic went on his summer vacation.

From there "The Aldrich Family" went to a niche of their own on the NBC blue network, and after gaining tremendous popularity with listeners on that chain they took-up their new time —Thursdays, 7.30 p.m. on The NBC red and Canadian networks as a permanent berth.

Ezra Stone portrays the character of Henry Aldrich, a typical teen-age boy, with all the problems that beset one of his age. With "Henry" on the show are his parents and sister "Mary", and his well-meaning pal "Homer".

Clifford Goldsmith, author of "The Aldrich Family", often works his own family foibles into the script. Embarrassed recently when dinner guests came whom the Goldsmiths had forgotten they had invited, Clifford turned the episode into one of his most amusing radio stories. Some time ago he bought a Pennsylvania farm where he could "while away his idle hours". To date, the busy creator of Henry Aldrich has enjoyed just one day of freedom on his place, and that day two dogs became ill, a horse escaped into the woods, the spring house collapsed, his car broke down and a publicity man visited him!

"The Aldrich Family", sponsored by Grape Nuts Flakes, is heard on CKY-CKX Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.

Henry, Mr. Aldrich, Homer Brown, Mrs. Aldrich

A Letter from Brian . . .

Following is an extract from a letter received by Mr. Hodgkinson from his son Brian, former CKY announcer. This is the first letter to reach Canada since Brian became a prisoner-of-war. Brian writes:

> "Came out second best in a dog-fight; and was burnt up pretty badly; but will be okay. So far we have been treated splendidly and have no kicks. Give my regards to all my friends and tell them though I cannot write to them, I will be thinking of them. There are two other Canadians, an Englishman and an Australian here with me."

Through the medium of this magazine we are happy to pass along greetings to his many friends from "Our Brian"; and from all of us to Brian—our very best wishes!

★

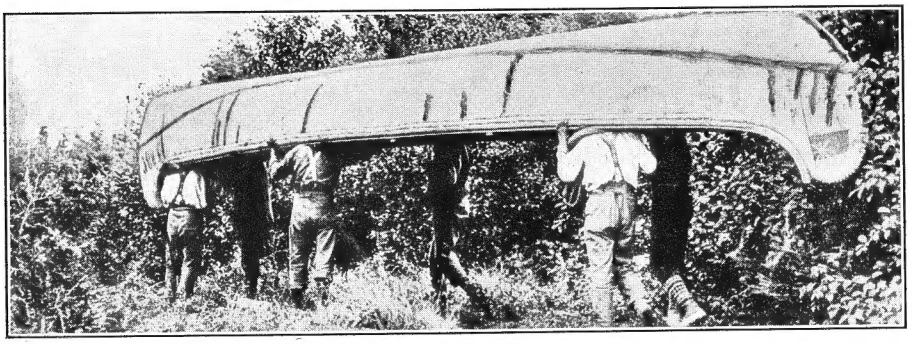
EXIT CONNIE - - ENTER MARY

Replacing Connie Boswell who leaves for a personal appearance tour, Mary Martin, film actress and singer, has been signed as a permanent feature on Kraft Music Hall, commencing with the broadcast of Thursday, January 1st. The Kraft Music Hall is heard on Thursdays at 8.00 p.m. (CKY-CKX).

The Romance of Lake Winnipeg

PART No. 2.

By PHILIP H. GODSELL, F.R.G.S.
Noted Fur Trader, and Arctic Traveller.
Author of: "Arctic Trader", "They Got Their Man," Etc.



Before the Railroads North Canoes conveyed goods to the West

While French fur traders, from a base on Lake Winnipeg, were portaging the Grand Rapids and pushing their birch-barks into the unknown wilds of Saskatchewan, in the valley of the Ohio was fired the shot that echoed around the world, setting in motion the Seven Years' War. Soon the primeval forests of the New World echoed to the marching of contending armies, the war whoop of enlisted savages, the roll of drums and the reverberations of the tom-tom, while from tree trunk to tree trunk flitted painted Iroquois, arrayed on England's side against Algonquin, Ojibway and Ottawa, led by New France's *coureurs de bois.*

When the smoke of battle cleared, and cannon ceased to roar upon the Plains of Abraham, the French *coureurs de bois* sat dejectedly beside their rotting canoes along the St. Lawrence, dispossessed of the fur trade and their western conquests. Some followed their brave and carefree masters, waiting aimlessly for their fortunes to take a turn. Others dispersed among the Indian tribes, or moved westward to hunt the buffalo on Manitoba's plains.

First of the discharged Scots and English soldiery to follow the trails of French *coureurs de bois* to Lake Winnipeg and the wilds of the Saskatchewan was Thomas Curry. Returning from a trading voyage to Cedar Lake, just west of Grand Rapids, he cleared fifty thousand dollars and retired.

Word spread around Montreal like wildfire. Ere long swarms of adventurous traders were sweeping westward like a tide. guided by dispossessed *coureurs de bois.* Soon an army of half-wild backwoods buccaneers, armed to the teeth and unhampered by legal restraint of any kind, overspread the plains and forests and followed the shores of Lake Winnipeg, carousing and quarreling, sowing crime and anarchy, debauching braves and squaws with poisonous alcohol, and often leaving behind the corpses of their. murdered companions.

Years of activity and commercial warfare followed. Lawlessness reigned throughout the land, and the savages—debased and disorganized by the indiscriminate sale of firewater—were rapidly reaching the point of open revolt. Then—with dramatic suddenness the dreaded smallpox, the Red Death, burst upon them. Terrified by the loathsome epidemic, the natives scattered in a vain effort to avoid it, only to carry its pes-

tilential breath into the remotest corners of the West.

The effect was threefold; an otherwise inevitable Indian war which would have culminated in a wholesale massacre of whites was averted; most of the traders were ruined, and the disreputable element practically eliminated.

For the first time surviving traders realized the folly of cutting each other's throats. Around a campfire on the western shore of Lake Winnipeg they decided to pool their goods and divide their profits. So profitable were results that the leading traders, the Frobishers, Alexander Hendry and Peter Pond consolidated their interests and bent their energies towards diverting the flow of rich Indian furs from far-off Athabasca from the Hudson Bay forts on the Bay into their own hands. Pushing toward the sources of the Churchill they intercepted these flotillas so successfully that Frobisher bartered over 12,000 beaver skins from Indians en route to barter their peltries with Samuel Hearne at Fort Prince of Wales.

The most picturesque of these fur traders was the Yankee pathfinder, Peter Pond. Running away from his home at Milford, Connecticut, in 1740, when only eighteen, he fought with the British at Fort Ticonderoga and Niagara against the French. His first appearance on the pages of fur trade history occurred at Detroit where he engaged in a duel of which he naively wrote: "We met & discharged Pistels in which the Pore fellowe was unfortenat." Others who opposed the fierce will of this wilderness freebooter were equally "unfortenat."

As the morning mists arose from the blue waters of the Athabasca, Indian hunters, gazing from the doors of their skin lodges, saw one morning a fleet of painted birchbarks manned by gaily attired *voyageurs* speeding northward to the rousing chansons of old Normandie. In the foremost sat the Connecticut Yankee, Peter Pond — the first white man to gaze on the verdant reaches of the upper Athabasca valley. Near Lake Athabasca he reared a rude log dwelling. Small and unpretentious, it was destined to become the nucleus of future Fort Chipewyan, cradle of discovery and exploration for the vast and still unknown Northwest.

From that original pooling of goods between contending traders somewhere near Lake Winnipeg there emerged in 1785 the Hudson's Bay Company's most powerful rival—the dynamic Northwest Company, dominated by shrewd Scots-Canadians of Montreal, and for the first time Big Business reared its head in North America. Like feudal lords of old these fur barons held annual court at Grande Portage near Fort William over a polyglot horde of adventurous Frenchmen, Highlanders, disbanded English

A French Voyageur

soldiers and unregenerate forest rangers.

Soon a fleet of huge North canoes of golden birchbark, manned by a thousand swarthy guides, *voyageurs* and red-shirted Iroquois canoemen, was conveying the freight west from Montreal and

(Continued on Page 12)

THE LISTENER WRITES

We welcome letters from our listeners at all times. Names and addresses of the writers must be given but will be treated as confidential.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER—"I certainly was delighted to find "Manitoba Calling" amongst my mail, I have enjoyed every leaf. I am sending it to a friend in New York City . . . "—Rochester, N.Y.

FOOTBALL vs. OPERA—"There was one disappointed girl in these parts last Saturday afternoon when I was unable to hear the Metropolitan Opera broadcast. I realize that football caused the cancellation this time, but I hope you will carry the succeeding operas. They constitute the best programmes on the air! . . . . "—Rathwell, Man.

FOOTBALL SCORES—"Many thanks for the splendid coverage of the Winnipeg-Ottawa football game. Hats off to the commentator, and to your station for the opportunity of hearing the game . . . . "—Winnipeg, Man.

READIN' RITIN' and RITHMETIC—"I particularly like the section Manitoba Place Names in 'Manitoba Calling'. I am a school teacher and the material in your magazine fits very well into our lessons . . . "—Whitemouth, Man.

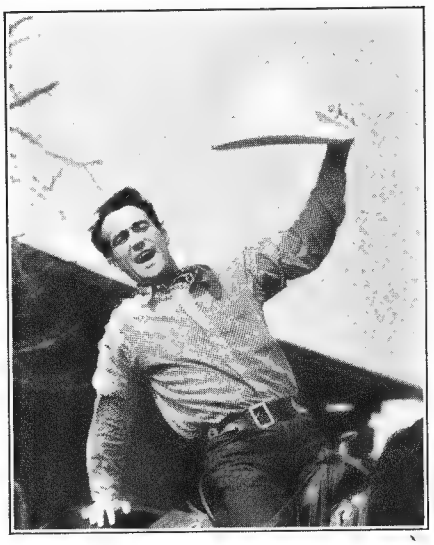
LIKE OLD-TIMERS—"We enjoy the old-time music in 'On the Trapline' and the 'Red River Barn Dance'—keep up the good work—old-time music is the favorite here. . . "—La Vallee, Ont.

APPRECIATION—"We enjoy reading 'Manitoba Calling' very much, and hope you will soon publish pictures of Wilf Davidson and Tom Benson, our favorite announcers. . . . "—Seven Sisters Falls, Man.

SOME FAVORITES—"We like your programmes very much, especially Treasure Trail, The Voice of Inspiration, and British Bands; also the cheerful voices of your announcers. . . . "—Lavenham, Man.

THANK YOU!—"In these trying days we need the radio more than ever. We want to join with the others of your audience who say 'thank you' at this Christmas season for enjoyment and service given by CKY . . ."—Neepawa, Man.

PINTO PETE



Pictured above is Pinto Pete, genial "boss" of the Ranch Boys, who entertains CKY listeners every Saturday at 12.30 p.m.

The deep, rich voice of Pinto Pete, his hearty laughter and home-spun philosophy, the blended harmonies of talented vocalists and instrumental groups all combine to produce a "mighty pleasant" quarter-hour.

Pinto Pete is a talented cowboy whose intimate knowledge of western music has brought to his programmes authentic realism and colour. Dominion Fur Auction Sales Ltd. are sponsors of this popular series.

★

PEGGY'S POINT OF VIEW

Designed particularly for housewives, Peggy's Point of View has a wide following. A heavy mail response testifies to the interest in Peggy's tips on homemaking, shopping hints and recipes.

Peggy's Point of View is presented at 9.15 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays over CKY.

Top Favorites on CKY-CKX

Recent Radio Polls name Listeners' Favorites

Recent American radio polls have brought to light the listeners' programme favorites, many of which are made available via CKY-CKX.

Out of the first 11 "Variety Shows" chosen by American listeners the following are carried locally: The Kraft Music Hall—Thurs. 8.00 p.m. (CKY-CKX); Charlie McCarthy — Sun. 7.00 p.m. (CKX); Fibber McGee and Molly —Tues., 8.30 p.m. (CKY-CKX); Jack Benny—Sun. 6.00 p.m. (CKY-CKX). The "general basis" programmes add the Aldrich Family—Thurs. 7.30 p.m. (CKY-CKX); and the Lux Radio Theatre — Mon. 8.00 p.m. (CKY-CKX). Big Town —Wed. 7.00 p.m. (CKY-CKX) placed high among the favorites, and Easy Aces—Mon., Wed., and Fri. 6.15 p.m. (CKY) led the field in thrice-weekly quarter-hours.

Among radio personalities two singers familiar to Canadian listeners won special recognition—Bing Crosby led the "popular male" polls; and Frank Munn, singing star of the Album of Familiar Music and Waltz Time, was one of the first three chosen from "light classical male" vocalists.

A survey of Canadian listeners adds the following programmes to the list of favorites—Treasure Trail—Tues. 8.00 p.m. (CKY-CKX); N.H.L. Hockey Broadcasts—Sat. 7.00 p.m. (CKY-CKX); Carry On Canada—Sun. 6.30 p.m. (CKY-CKX); Canadian Theatre of the Air — Fri. 8.30 p.m. (CKY-CKX); The Family Man—Wed. 7.30 p.m. (CKY-CKX); and Share the Wealth—Sat. 6.30 p.m. (CKY-CKX).

According to this same survey the programmes Amos 'n Andy — Mon. through Fri. 6.00 p.m. (CKY); Secret Service Scouts—Tues. and Thurs. 6.15 p.m. (CKY), Mon., Wed. and Fri. 5.30 p.m. (CKX); That Brewster Boy—Tues. 7.30 p.m. (CKY) and John and Judy—Tues. 7.00 p.m. (CKY-CKX) are all very popular with radio listeners.

In day-time programmes The Happy Gang—Mon. through Fri. 12.00 p.m. (CKY-CKX) leads the field in listener preference, with the Good Deed Radio Club—Sat. 10.30 a.m. (CKY) topping the list of Saturday day-time programmes. Other shows claiming vast listening-audiences are Singin' Sam — Mon. through Fri. 11.45 a.m. (CKY); Prof. V. W. Jackson's Nature Talks—Sat. 11.30 a.m. (CKY) and British Dance Bands—Mon. through Fri. 10.15 a.m. (CKY).

Jean Dickenson
Album of Familiar Music

Newscasts, both network and local, continue to hold a great percentage of listeners, with the 9.00 p.m. national news and the local noon broadcasts leading the field. The day-time dramatic sketches, too, continue to draw a large percentage of listeners,—proof of which is the great quantity of mails received in response to sponsors' premium offers.

MANITOBA
. . . Winter Wonderland

Snow covered hills and ice-sheets beckon to Manitoba's youth, and the call does not go unheeded. Legions of rosy-cheeked youngsters, clad in warm clothing against the cold, make their way to the corner-rinks, their favorite ski-run, or set out on hikes.

Manitoba is particularly kind to its sport-minded youth in the opportunities it offers. For several months snow in abundance provides a setting for healthy, vigorous activities. Here boys and girls learn the true meaning of sportsmanship, a lesson that goes a long way in molding character; and from our youth come future international champions—many of whom have brought fame and glory to our Province.

Not only for youth, but for all ages the winter season holds out a hearty welcome to share in the fun. Curling is one of the most popular winter diversions, and Manitoba has become the "cradle" of the grand old game. The annual Winnipeg Bonspiel attracts one of the largest entries in the Dominion, and for a week each year the "Knights of the Broom" take over every available sheet of curling ice in Greater Winnipeg.

Ski-ing has developed to a high degree in recent years, due in great part to the many natural hills that lend themselves so readily to this fascinating sport. Special Ski Trains carry ski-ers to Snow Valley, near Rose Isle, one of Manitoba's newest runs, and to La Riviere. Energetic clubs operate at Brandon, Minnedosa, Souris, Neepawa and other Manitoba points; and throughout the snow season river banks and slopes in innumerable localities are alive with ski enthusiasts.

Dominion-wide attention will be focused on the Canadian Amateur Figure Skating Championships, being held in Winnipeg on January 30 and 31. From Winnipeg's rinks and winter clubs have come some of the continent's outstanding skating artists, and Manitobans will welcome the opportunity of seeing a galaxy of stars in the 30th annual competition for Canadian honors.

Hockey and ice skating are among the most popular of Manitoba's winter sports. Many of the professional hockey stars now thrilling fans in the East are graduates of Manitoba's junior hockey leagues.

Even in these times of stress winter sports should be encouraged. For those able to participate they provide opportunities for healthy diversion,—helping to build strong bodies and clear minds.

And so the call goes out to young and old to share in the bounty of Manitoba's Winter Wonderland!

MERCER McLEOD

Here is the Ghost Walker—alias Mercer McLeod, creator and director of the Ghost Walker series. Though not as "ghostly appearing" as he sounds, his spine-chilling characterizations provide thrilling entertainment for listeners to these popular Monday night presentations.

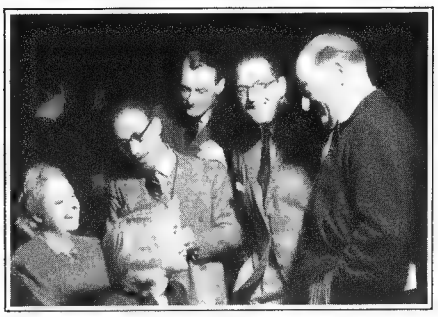
The Ghost Walker in Rehearsal

Pictured on this page are scenes from a Ghost Walker rehearsal. First—the script conference—in which we see, left to right, Brian Bisney, CKY Operator, who works in close collaboration with Director Mercer McLeod; Jules Upton, sound-effects man; Reta Laverne, feminine lead of the Ghost Walker series (in private life Mrs. McLeod); and Mercer McLeod. Here the script is marked for music-bridges, sound-effects, themes, etc.

An operator's eye-view of a Ghost Walker rehearsal. Operator Brian Bisney listens-in on the control booth speaker as the principals and sound-effects man go into first rehearsal. From the control booth (foreground) recorded effects and musical sequences are handled by the operator, who also controls microphone levels from the panel. Subsequent rehearsals, with the entire cast in attendance, serve to polish the performance for timing, voice levels and music interludes—ready for 10.30 Monday night — when the Ghost Walker, sponsored by City Hydro, is on the air!

Snapped in CKY Studio 2, this view shows the Ghost Walker principals, Mercer McLeod and Reta Laverne, with sound-effects man Jules Upton. Mercer McLeod is about to finish a telephone conversation with David Yeddeau, who is at the other end of the Studio speaking into a filter microphone (telephone effect). Jules Upton is ready to "hang-up" the telephone at the conclusion of the scene.

OUR OVERSEAS PAGE



The photograph above shows a group of well known stage, radio and music-hall stars, chatting informally in a BBC London studio before a broadcast.

Pictured from right to left are Malcolm McEachern, the Australian basso; Stanley Holloway, of "Old Sam" fame; Richard Murdoch, in R.A.F. uniform; Arthur Askey, talking to Tessie O'Shea, the North Country comedienne; and in the foreground is Vera Lynn. Their voices are familiar to CKY listeners in the British Variety Hour and the early-morning Variety Shows.

It should be explained here that owing to the many added programmes in connection with the war, and the difficulty in obtaining supplies through regular sources, it has been necessary to curtail the Saturday afternoon presentation of the British Variety Hour.

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Elizabeth Montizambert, the well-known Canadian journalist and author, who lives in London, recently told overseas' listeners of some interesting London relics of the Dominion's history—in fact of its very inception — when she broadcast in the BBC Radio Newsreel.

Taking her listeners along Victoria Street she brought them to a billiard room tucked away in a rabbit warren of business offices now called Abbey House. There the Canadian billiard player—and the British one, too—would most probably learn for the first time, if he glanced at the wall, that seventy-four years ago, in that very room, the Canada of today was born.

The date of the birthday of Confederation was 1867. Following the famous report of Lord Durham in 1930, Canadian statesmen had wanted upper and lower Canada and the Maritime Provinces to be all one. In 1866 a delegation came to London to go into details. The discussions took place in this billiard room.

Miss Montizambert described how she went to look round the place herself. "Through the haze of tobacco-smoke and the click of the billiard balls, I tried to imagine that December day when those great Canadians we like to call the Fathers of Confederation sat round a long table in this room, planning the future of our country, chopping snippets off the resolutions of the Quebec Conference and leaving loopholes for British Columbia and Prince Edward Island to join later—which they soon did.

"The great men finished the job here. Among them were such household names as Sir John A. MacDonald, Sir Alexander Galt, Sir George Etienne Cartier, Sir Oliver Mowat, and Sir Charles Tupper. There were giants in the world in those days. Someone, I don't know who, thought that their work should be recorded here.

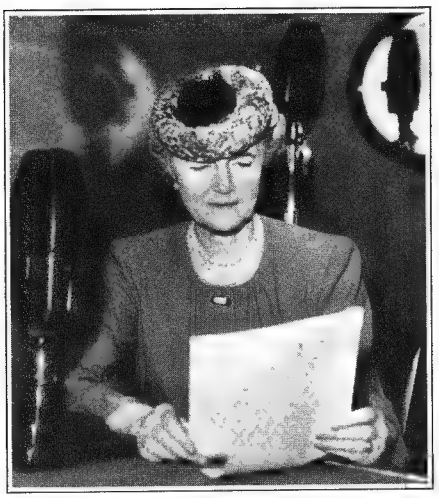
"The room has changed hands several times since it was part of the National Liberal Club. But none of its succeeding owners has disturbed the large wall plaque of green faience put there to tell London that:

> "'In this room in 1866-7, delegates representing the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, under the chairmanship of the late Rt. Hon. Sir John MacDonald, framed the Act of Union under which all British North America, except Newfoundland, is now united under one Government as the Dominion of Canada'."

★ ★ ★

THE BBC SCARES GOEBBELS

". . . Thousands of wireless sets have been confiscated by the Nazis in Norway to prevent Norwegians from listening to the BBC bulletins in their own language. The British broadcasts cannot be heard now, it is true, but it is equally true that



Mrs. Winston Churchill, wife of the Prime Minister, speaks on The Work of the Red Cross

the Nazi propaganda broadcasts to Norway cannot be heard either. Rather than risk competition with Britain, Goebbels has renounced one of his own strongest weapons."

—("Inside Nazi Europe", by Cyril Lakin.)

★ ★ ★

"MUSIC HALL" FOR BRITISH PRISONERS

At the finish of a BBC "Music Hall" programme, a little while ago, a soldier who had been in the audience, went up to John Sharman with a letter he had received from a friend of his who is a prisoner of war in Germany.

This man, a flying officer, at Dulag Luft Camp, wrote to say that the only British programme the prisoners at his camp were allowed to listen to was "Music Hall".

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Our Cover

Our cover is a photographic reproduction of Miss Patricia Chown, professional at the Winnipeg Winter Club. Following an active amateur skating career at the Winter Club, Miss Chown turned professional three years ago.

CKY NEWSCASTS

7.00—B.U.P. News—Daily except Sun.
7.45—B.U.P. News—Daily except Sun.
8.00—CBC News—CBC—Daily except Sun.
9.00—CBC News—CBC—Saturday
10.00—BBC News—CBC—Daily
12.25—B.U.P. News—Sunday
12.45—B.U.P. News—Daily except Sun.
1.27—CBC News—CBC Sunday
4.15—CBC News—CBC—Saturday
4.45—BBC News—CBC—Daily
5.45—CBC News—CBC—Sunday
5.45—B.U.P. News—Daily except Sun.
9.00—CBC News—CBC—Daily
11.45—B.U.P. News—Daily

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CKX NEWSCASTS

7.45—B.U.P. News—Daily except Sun.
10.00—BBC News—CBC—Daily
10.45—CBC News—CBC—Daily except Sun.
11.55—CBC News—CBC—Sunday
12.45—B.U.P. News—Daily except Sun.
1.27—CBC News—CBC—Sunday
4.15—CBC News—CBC—Daily except Sun.
4.45—BBC News—CBC—Daily
5.45—CBC News—CBC—Sunday
5.45—B.U.P. News—Daily except Sun.
9.00—CBC News—CBC—Daily

★

PROGRAMME CHANGES

The dramatic sketch "Right to Happiness" returns to the air at 1.15 p.m. daily from Mondays to Fridays, replacing the programme "Pepper Young's Family", which moves to its new time—2.30 p.m. Another recent dramatic sketch to be heard via CKY-CKX is "Lucy Linton's Stories of Life", at 9.45 a.m. each week-day except Saturdays. In the evening schedule "Britain Speaks" gives way to a new Canadian series entitled "Newbridge", at 9.15 p.m. (CKY-CKX).

The Romance of Lake Winnipeg

(Continued from Page 4)

the baled wealth of the wilderness back east to the warehouses of the fur lords.

Embarking at Lachine with the chimes of Ste. Anne de Beaupre ringing in their ears they dipped their red-painted paddles, lifted their voices in rousing chansons, and were lost to sight around the forested bends.

Spilling ashore at last at Grande Portage on Lake Superior, these "pork eaters" dumped their cargoes, engaged in riotous merrymaking with bright-eyed beauties of the lodges, and embarked with fat fur packs again for Montreal. Beyond Grande Portage the freighting was taken over by boastful, hard-drinking, hard-fighting North men who conveyed the goods down-river to Lake Winnipeg, portaged the Grand Rapids and pushed west along the Saskatchewan and Churchill to the wilds of far-off Athabasca.

Returning from his Athabasca outpost, Pond didn't find the new company to his liking. Finding other merchants to finance him, the Connecticut Yankee decided to strike out as a rival to the Nor'Westers, and when he departed for the wilds of the Athabasca he took with him a young clerk from Gregory's Montreal Counting House—Alexander Mackenzie.

A more perilous adventure could hardly be imagined. Apart from having to transport goods through 3,000 miles of wilderness they would have to encounter the implacable enmity of the powerful Nor'Westers in a land where might was law. That winter the rocky shores of Athabasca saw a battle royal for furs. One of the partners, Ross, was killed; another was maimed for life, and many of the *voyageurs* were injured in the strife. At length fear of intervention caused the two concerns to unite, and next year Peter Pond left the North for good—to die in old age in direst poverty. He'd been blamed for the killing of Etienne Warden in 1780; now, again, he was held largely to blame for Ross' death.

With Pond's maps and information Alexander Mackenzie followed up the Yankee pathfinder's exploits by adding the Mackenzie River to the map of Canada, and making his momentous journey to the Pacific. Promptly the Nor'Westers consolidated these discoveries. Trading posts were reared on dismal Great Slave Lake, along the forested banks of the Mackenzie and in the very heart of the Rockies.

Whipped into activity, the Hudson's Bay Company attempted to regain their lost trade, reared a stronghold overlooking Fort Chipewyan, only to be driven out.

Nine years later John Clarke crossed Lake Winnipeg with fourteen heavy-laden canoes and a hundred men, portaged the Grand Rapids, reached Fort Chipewyan, erected Fort Wedderburn and despatched a party of forty-eight men for the Peace River country.

Promptly the Nor'Westers took up the challenge. Speeding ahead of Clarke's men, they drove all game from the river banks. Indians were sent inland so they couldn't hunt for the newcomers, while McGillvray followed on their heels to see the Nor'Westers didn't give food or comfort to their rivals. Eighteen Hudson's Bay men perished, while the rest were forced to capitulate, surrender their goods, and undertake not to trade for another year. When Clarke returned his men were provoked into a disturbance, Clarke was arrested and thirty bales of trading goods exacted as bail.

Thus the fur war assumed new fury. At Grande Portage, where the Saskatchewan plunges into Lake Winnipeg, rival claimants to the fur trade empire lay in ambush for each other's flotillas. Officers of one company were arrested by those of the other and spirited to York Factory or Montreal. Not till the amalgamation of the two great companies in 1821 did peace settle over Lake Winnipeg and the West regain its tranquil calm. Thenceforth York Factory, Manitoba's first seaport on Hudson Bay, was to assume again its pride of place; the council chamber at historic Norway House was to replace the gargantuan halls of Fort William, and Manitoba's Hayes River was to replace the Ottawa as the highway to the West.

Another article in this series will be published in an early issue of "Manitoba Calling."

RADIO COVERS THE WAR-FRONTS

The break in the war-news on Sunday, December 7th, ably demonstrated the speed with which radio can muster its forces to provide listeners with the latest developments.

Into the regular schedule of Sunday programmes a bombshell bulletin, cutting in on a network Religious Period, announced that the Japanese had opened hostilities with air-attacks on Hawaii and the Phillipines. Even as a surprised world heard this initial bulletin, news services of all the major networks were in action and a steady stream of bulletins brought flashes within seconds of the actual developments.

CKY officials hurried to the Studios, and immediately ordered that any and all programmes be interrupted to provide news bulletins. One official, driving to the country, was summoned by means of the CKY emergency call-letters,—and an extra staff was called to duty to cope with the fast-moving developments.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation gave full news-coverage with bulletins in the network programmes, and this service was augmented by the official CKY news-agency, British United Press, which provided news flashes from its world-wide facilities, and which were broadcast during programmes of local origin, as well as in the regular news periods. In addition to these services the news from NBC and CBS networks in the United States was closely followed at CKY, and developments not already reported on the Canadian news were released over CKY and CKX.

In order to co-ordinate all the bulletins of the day CKY arranged for a special Sunday night edition of "'Behind the Headlines", (regularly heard Monday through Friday—11.00 p.m.—CKY), in which John Bird, well-known commentator and Editor of the Winnipeg Tribune, summed-up the developments of the day's news to give listeners a clearer conception of the war situation.

Listeners to CKY and CKX were once again kept abreast of world-events through the facilities of Manitoba's own radio stations. It is worthy of comment that programme sponsors, both local and national, have co-operated wholeheartedly in allowing programme interruptions in order that events might be broadcast with the least possible delay.

B.U.P. TELETYPE ROOM

The above view shows a battery of teletype receiving and sending machines, in the British United Press offices on the third floor of the Telephone Building. Through its world-wide news gathering facilities bulletins are received via teletype, and relayed to similar teletype receivers at CKX Brandon and elsewhere throughout the West.

★

RADIO SERVES

Radio today is in a period of unparalleled service and significance. Surely we can attribute to radio a major share of credit for the fact that we are better informed than our grandparents, that we are more vitally interested in a wider variety of subjects than at any other period in history. Radio has made the living room a forum in which world affairs and national issues are fully presented and debated. It has destroyed the barrier of distance, bridges, oceans and continents in a flash, to mirror world events and give eye-witness news.

A Trip By Ski Train

By BERNICE C. JOSIE

Honourable Mention in our "Holiday in Manitoba" Contest.

Br-r-r! The alarm shrieked harshly in my slumber-fed ear. What on earth was it ringing for at this hour? I rolled over, wrapping the covers snuggly around me. Then my eye opened just a tiny bit as light dawned on me although not outside! Ugh—the crack of dawn. Not for me. Ski train or no ski train! Seven hundred other people might be wrong but I wasn't going to be. Anyone would be nuts, just plain goofy, to get up at 6.45 a.m. with the temperature at ten below. I'd see the hills of La Riviere some summer day! Sissy, sissy, I was scoffing at me. Just too lazy to tug into all those woollies. O.K. - O.K.— 'twas no use. The ski bug had got me and I had to try my skill on Manitoba hills.

The next three-quarters of an hour was spent tugging first to the right, then left, to my feet, to my head until eventually I was stuffed like a bear, ready for anything.

With my skis tucked gingerly under my arm, my lunch stowed in a pocket, harnesses in my hands, I cautiously stepped outside the front door. The street was deserted. That was good. I tried to hoist my skis on my shoulder. They slipped off. Finally I clutched them or clamped them on my shoulder and away I trudged down the roadway. A street car passed me — the conductor looked askance. Never mind—I knew what he was thinking. An auto passed. They grinned. What's so funny—I muttered after it.

As I approached Academy Road where the railway tracks crossed, I began to feel a bit brighter. There were dozens of people, standing around in groups chatting—skis stuck in the snowdrifts here and there. At last I became one of them. I felt at home as others hailed me. Even the air felt good. Great to be alive before eight on a dark, dull morning.

Toot-toot! The cry rang shrill through the frosty air as the locomotive hove in sight. Gathering up my equipment with the greatest of trouble, I wondered how the hop from street to train was going to be achieved. Sho' nough, when the train slid to a halt the distance between my feet and the step was all of three feet. But with the impatient shoving of friends, and the lifting of skis from above, I clambered awkwardly aboard. Success at last.

As we entered the car, already filled by Portage Avenuers, I felt sure the Indians were gonna' get me, that we had entered an Indian encampment, with the palisades on the outside preventing entry. But no—it was only skis, skis and more skis—all stood upright in twos and fours between each double seat—quite a spectacle.

Once comfortably seated in our seats surrounded by the ski barrage, we peeled off layer after layer of our sports togs and settled down. Soon skiers started wandering from car to car, talking here and there with friends and would-like-to-be friends. It was a happy, jolly get-together with a few surprises thrown in when "so-and-so" suddenly appeared—you didn't know they skied. We had song sheets and the roof of the car rang with "She'll be skiing round the mountain when she comes". Then lunch-time came, a mere necessity, so that no time would be wasted once the hills were reached. Abruptly that was over and the ski palisade came down—skis were plunked lengthwise across the tops of the seats. Elbow grease and wax (what kind are you putting on?) was applied to the bottom of the skis. Some gals were lucky and the men took over the messy task.

It wasn't long before I could realize that something "big" was due to happen. The skiers were up and about—pulling on jackets, caps, mitts, etc. Lines formed down the centre aisles, skis in front and skiers behind. I wormed my way to the end of the car, determined to have a good look as we swung into the hills. Yes, the trees rushed by and then my pals poked me, saying "there they are!"

Over to the right I saw the hills rise up suddenly—the train seemed to be cutting its way into the centre of them. The train had been sifting along through the small towns, whose platforms were filled with the townspeople out to see the ski train, and then through the rolling sweep of the prairie land, fresh covered with a flaky blanket of snow as far as the eye could see. It gave me a feeling of tranquility and peace—the pure snow land untouched for miles by humanity. I couldn't gaze too long or too often on such a scene.

This flashback came into my thoughts as the ski train slowed to a standstill and I sprang down off the train steps to gaze up and around at the hills surrounding us. The hills, too, were white, their curves and peaks softly rounded by snow. Here and there you saw the brown of the trees in winter dress. But I had no time for reflection—the train crowd, now a multi-colored spectacle, were all bending over, some adjusting their skis, others already skiing up towards the nursery slopes which looked plenty high to me. Everywhere skiers in all stages of progress, skiing down, climbing up, talking, falling—a never to be forgotten sight, constantly changing in the twinkling of an eye.

From the top of the slope I stood as the dull, gray sky dropped over us gently falling diamond shaped crystals of snow and presto, even as I watched, a blackout in white took place. Only a short distance away could anyone be seen. Those high up on some of the steep trails were no more, the voices coming through were unreal (eery, supernatural). I wondered how we'd ever find them all. It was funny to see a shadow come up and hit you.

But in a few seconds, just above my head, a shaft of blue sky poked its way in. It became larger and finally big enough "to make a pair of pants". That settled it, all was well. Yes, indeed, for inside a quarter of an hour we had a roof of the brightest most dazzling blue sky I had ever seen, with the hills putting up like church spires into it.

Ere long I was persuaded to climb one of the easy ski trails. We started off,

(Continued on Page 16.)

FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mary Rose Thacker

Winnipeg plays host this year to the thirtieth annual competition for the Canadian Amateur Figure Skating Championships, being held at the Winnipeg Winter Club on January 30 and 31.

The competitions, held under amateur laws and with the sanction of the Amateur Skating Association of Canada, will give Manitobans an opportunity of seeing North America's leading figure skating artists in action, doing both figures and free skating.

Miss Mary Rose Thacker, of Winnipeg, North American and Canadian Champion, will defend her Canadian title. Winnipeggers are justly proud of the brilliant success attained by this popular young lady.

Michael Kirby, men's junior champion and a former Winnipeg youth now residing in Toronto, will compete in the Canadian senior men's Championship event.

Other outstanding figure skaters who are expected include Peter Killam, Margaret Wilson, Elenor O'Meara and Nora McCarthy of Toronto.

Local stars taking part in the competitions will include Margaret McInnes, Sheila Reid, Sheila Smith, Joyce Lamont, Elizabeth Ann McKellar, Roberta Wilcox, and Margaret Kennedy.

A. Cumberland Reid is chairman of the committee in charge of the Canadian Championships.

(Continued from Page 15)

single file, right pole, left ski, left pole, right ski, left, right, left, left . . . . it was tough work shoving on the poles holding your skis on the gentle angle of the hillside. Time out for regaining breath. I looked back—below the others, climbing up like funny little animals. Above me were more, a beautiful scene for just then the first skier in the lead, one minute silhouetted against the soft snow, next poked his head in the blue dome of the sky. The sun poured down on us and the scene made us breathe quicker and deeper as the awesomeness of nature took its toll.

The top of the hill at long last. An achievement to be gloried in. But for half an hour I let skier after skier go ahead of me, lacking the wherewithal to let my skis carry me swiftly down that hill. Eventually I decided it was do or die and I took "off". So many things did I have to remember—bend the knees, bend the knees. I did, oh how I did. I clenched my teeth. No fallin' allowed. Then I knew I had my skis under control and I relaxed. I was borne along on the crest of the breeze. Such sheer exhilaration stirred me. What a sport! What hills! What skiing! What a country! Yes, sir! Manitoba's Calling!

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CKX ENTERTAINS VISITORS

Several student groups from Western Manitoba towns have been recent visitors to Radio Station CKX in Brandon.

Guests of the Brandon Board of Trade, the students of the Boissevain and District Home Making School spent a day inspecting manufacturing establishments and other places of interest in Brandon.

Included in the itinerary was a tour of CKX, where Manager W. F. Seller gave the class a hearty welcome. The new CKX building was also visited.

Other groups to visit CKX in recent weeks were the Desford and Boissevain Junior Poultry Breeders, and the Glenboro Home Making School.

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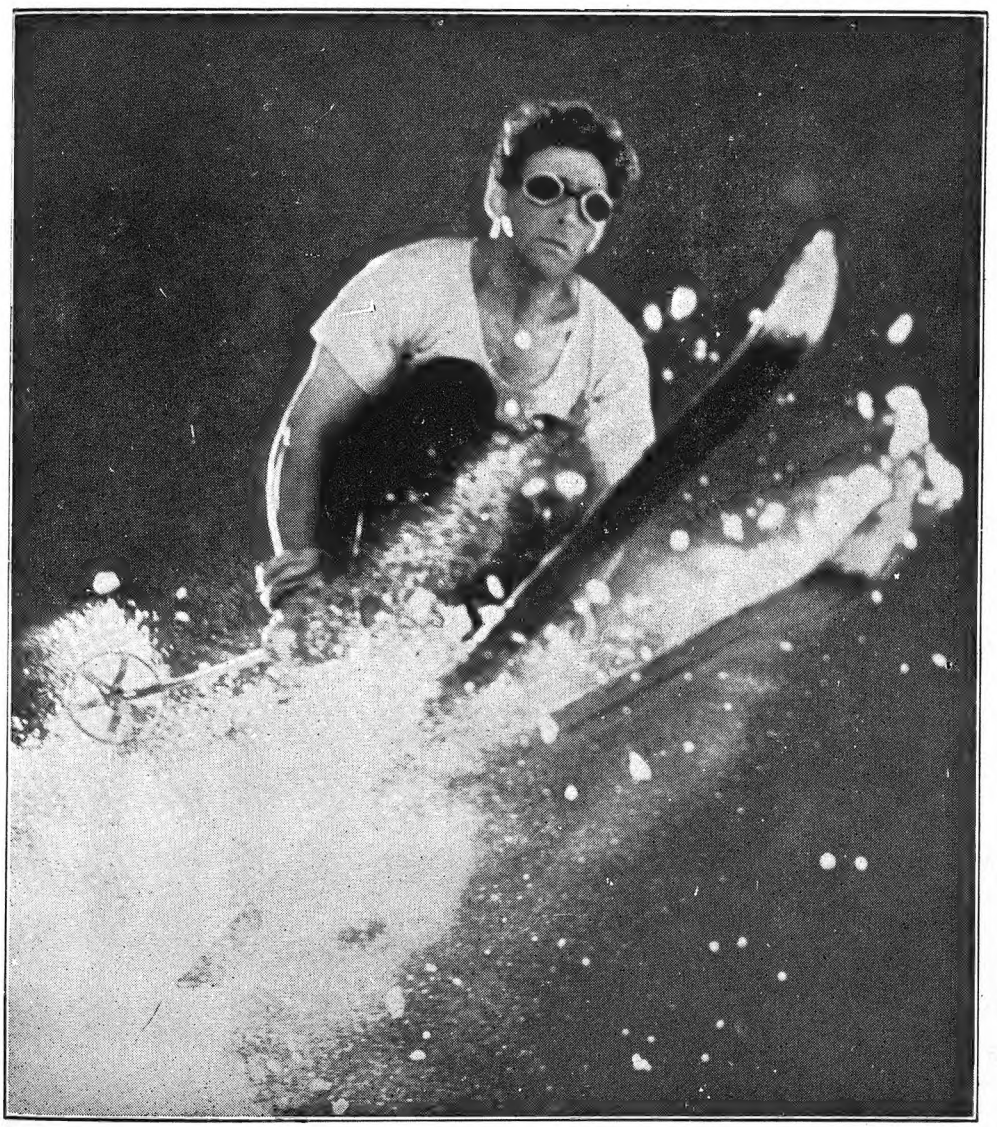

Courtesy of Canadian National Railways.

Ski Competition Schedule, 1941-42

Jan. 4th—La Riviere—
Invitation Slalom (Winnipeg Ski Club) — Open Event

Jan. 11th—Snow Valley—
Team Relay—Novelty—(Tentative) — Open Event

Jan. 18th—La Riviere—
Senior Men and Ladies' Slalom, (Puffins) — Closed Event
Slalom—Ida V. Barclay (Snowbirds) — Open Event

Jan. 25th—Snow Valley—
Douglas McKay Slalom (Winnipeg Ski Club) — Open Event

Jan. 25th—Kenora, Ont.—
Manitoba Ski Zone Jr. Slalom — Open Event
Manitoba Championship (Kenora Ski Club)

Feb. 1st—La Riviere—
Manitoba Ski Zone Jumping (Puffins) — Open Event
Manitoba Championship
Winnipeg Ski Club Jumping: Picard Trophy — Closed Event
Winnipeg Ski Club Senior Slalom: Birks Dingwall Trophy — Closed Event
Winnipeg Ski Club Junior Slalom: Sam Southern Trophy — Closed Event
Winnipeg Ski Club "C" Class Slalom: Hudson's Bay Co. Trophy — Closed Event
Tribune Trophy—Jumping—(Snowbirds) — Open Event

Feb. 8th—Snow Valley—
Winnipeg Ski Club Senior Slalom: T. Eaton Co. Trophy — Closed Event
Winnipeg Ski Club Junior Slalom: — Closed Event
Winnipeg Ski Club "C" Class Slalom: Birks Trophy — Closed Event

Feb. 15th—Open Date—

Feb. 15th—Brandon—
Manitoba Ski Zone 4 man Team Slalom — Open Event
Manitoba Championship

Feb. 21st—Winnipeg—
Manitoba Ski Zone Jr. Cross-Country (Vikings) — Open Event
Manitoba Championship
Winnipeg Ski Club Jr. Cross-Country — Closed Event

Feb. 22nd—Snow Valley—
Manitoba Ski Zone Senior Slalom (Winnipeg Ski Club) — Open Event
Alloway Memorial Trophy—Manitoba Championship
Winnipeg Ski Club Ladies' Cross-Country — Closed Event

Mar. 1st—La Riviere—
Manitoba Ski Zone Senior Cross-Country — Open Event
(Winnipeg Ski Club) Manitoba Championship
Winnipeg Ski Club Senior Cross-Country: Winnipeg Electric Trophy
Senior Men's, Senior Ladies' and Junior Slalom (Puffins).

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